

Date: Wed, 3 Feb 93 21:54:14 PST
From: Info-Hams Mailing List and Newsgroup <info-hams@ucsd.edu>
Errors-To: Info-Hams-Errors@UCSD.Edu
Reply-To: Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu
Precedence: Bulk
Subject: Info-Hams Digest V93 #165
To: Info-Hams

Info-Hams Digest Wed, 3 Feb 93 Volume 93 : Issue 165

Today's Topics:

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Condo Communicator Issue #3
MFJ 1278 Rom upgrade time??
Microphone/Earphone Combos
No Code Proposition
PI network in Swan 700CX
QRP amplifier ?
QRP Mobile
Real Hams Pass British Exams?
Why wont any Delaware station QSL? [originator's reply]

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Send Replies or notes for publication to: <Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu>
Send subscription requests to: <Info-Hams-REQUEST@UCSD.Edu>
Problems you can't solve otherwise to brian@ucsd.edu.

Archives of past issues of the Info-Hams Digest are available
(by FTP only) from UCSD.Edu in directory "mailarchives/info-hams".

We trust that readers are intelligent enough to realize that all text herein consists of personal comments and does not represent the official policies or positions of any party. Your mileage may vary. So there.

Date: 3 Feb 93 14:27:23 GMT
From: agate!usenet.ins.cwru.edu!gatech!ncar!vexcel!copper!mercury.cair.du.edu!
diana.cair.du.edu!awinterb@ames.arpa
Subject: Condo Communicator Issue #3
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

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:[210                                012[:
:[210Condo Communicator012[:
:[210                                012[:
HMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMM<

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Welcome to the third exciting, thrill-packed issue of Condo Communicator, a newsletter devoted to those amateurs who, for various reasons, must configure their stations to operate from restrictive areas such as condos, apartments,

townhouses, neighborhoods with outdoor antenna restrictions, ships/boats, mobile homes, or wherever they fry their burgers and call QTH.

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Station Descriptions..... N50P, WD8RIF, KC7IT, KM6CG

Technical Correspondence..... Forthcoming book by KR1S

Bibliography..... N00QS

There's quite a lot in this issue. I'll let the contributors do the talking (or writing) and keep my comments to a minimum.

STATION DESCRIPTIONS

Kim, N50P, describes his former condo abode: "I had limited success with a long-as-I-could-make-it vertical dipole that was capacitively loaded on both ends. It worked best on 40, 30, and 20 m but I had RF feedback/grounding troubles on 15 and 10 m. And the RFI problem was difficult to address, since I was doing all of this clandestinely. I camouflaged the antenna with the paint they were using to repaint the condos and it really was hard to see :-) I put it up on a cloudy weekday, about 10 AM, so as to have as few witnesses as possible! I fed it with 450 ohm ladder line through a tuner and worked quite a lot of DX (VE, XE, JA, ZL, VK and a very few Europeans) on whatever power level I could get away with (50 to 100 W). It was fun and I felt that I had pulled it off for the most part, but learned that I couldn't operate as freely as I wished due to RFI and neighbors who objected to the basic idea :-("

Eric, WD8RIF, was sent overseas for Desert Shield/Storm: "...and the gear I took was a Sangean ATS-803A receiver and a 31 meter dipole, for listening. I strung the wire between our tent and the neighbouring one. It worked pretty well, until the wind destroyed the dipole, at which time I made it into a random wire."

Upon returning: "...I found a nice flat, and the landlord there allowed, nay, helped install a 20-foot mast supporting a 2m quad, a 2m ground plane, and a ten meter dipole. The 2m work was mostly packet, and unfortunately, the 10m was mostly useless due to neighbourhood electrical noise. I also had a 31m dipole strung along the ceiling for the ATS-803A, the same rig that went with me to sand-land."

Mike, KC7IT: "FYI: I once worked a guy in Hawaii via OSCAR-13 who was in a restricted condo situation. He kept his antennas and rotator on a free-standing tripod (like the Radio Shack variety) in his garage, and just walked it out onto his driveway whenever he wanted to operate. So long as you can see the part of the sky you need, altitude is no advantage

in satellite work."

Howard, KE7QJ: "I live in a single story townhouse with a flat roof - thus I can erect a 30-m length inverted-V, fed with ladder line, and work 10-40 via an MFJ-948 tuner. Rig is an IC-735 at 100 watts. Works great, but, still, 5-9 into some of one of my neighbor's telephones....We're working on it.

"The townhouse covenants say 'no antennas unless completely concealed from public view.' Well, you CAN see mine, if you know exactly where to look, and from where."

Howard goes on to describe this inverted-V antenna: "...the center point of the inverted V is about 7' above the wood roof. There isn't much metal around, except for the heat pump and its ductwork below the antenna and feedline: far more directly underneath the feedline than the antenna itself. TVI is minimal, although my telephone RFI neighbor reported it to me, along with light interference to her stereo. Her TV is connected to CATV, and I think her stereo is, too. This is my neighbor to the north, and it's a 2-story unit. I would guess that her upstairs wiring, in-line broadside to my antenna, is picking up my signals. My neighbor to the south, literally closer to my antenna, report NO interference of any kind. Then again, they don't have fancy electronics."

As far as grounding is concerned, Howard states: "I am in a one-story unit, thus my station is at ground level. The units are 8 years old, so they're fairly new. The ground wire of the electrical outlets connect to the outside cold water pipe. If I ran a heavy wire to my 'cold water pipe' it means I'm actually forming a ground loop! Thus, I have no real ground. But my dipole has its own built in RF ground, so who cares? If I REALLY want to get serious, I'd get a galvanized ground rod and attempt to drive it into this desert soil. But the nearest soil is 14 feet away! That's going to be resonant on some band or another."

Ed, KM6CG: "My QTH is a third floor apartment. I use a Yaesu FT-301D which is a transistorized 80-10 M transceiver. It's supposed to put out 100 watts when equipped with a 20 amp supply. I run it with the gain backed off and I put out about 20 watts. I run 40 M CW exclusively. I don't really have much luck with SSB at these power levels, but that's OK. I got this on the air to build my code speed and don't operate as much, now that I got over the 13 WPM test.

"My antenna is a 40 M 'Coaxial Dipole' as described in 73 in 1981 or thereabouts. It runs around the living room and kitchen ceilings. I use a counterpoise, since I don't have a decent ground. I have a low pass filter, and I don't get into OUR TV or any of the neighbors I checked.

"I live in San Jose, CA. I've contacted about 30 states and two Canadian provinces. 40M is good mostly after dark for me. I can hear a band of

stations in the midwest (IL, OH, TN, KY) and another in the west (NV, UT, AZ) as well as lots of Los Angeles and Vancouver/Seattle stations. I hear JAs in the middle of the night, but haven't worked one yet. Haven't tried hard though. I have trouble hearing east coast stations like NY and NE, although I've got a few.

"I also run local two-meter packet. My antenna is a 1/4 wave mobile mount with a 1/4 wave wire dangling, to make a 1/2 wave dipole. It's secured to a strip of aluminum (hanging file folder rail) and it sticks out the window about 18 inches. It's secured by sitting something heavy on the other end."

TECHNICAL CORRESPONDENCE

Be on the lookout for a book by Jim Kearman, KR1S, "Low Profile Amateur Radio, How to get on the air from almost anywhere." This book is at the printer right now and should be available soon for \$8.00 from the ARRL and dealers. Jim tells me that it will deal with keeping a low profile (like a spy), setting up a home station, setting up in the field, operating mobile, etc., and will cover HF and VHF/UHF. Some simple antennas are included. It will also address RFI. I'll review it as soon as I can get a copy.

I'm sure many of us would like to hear from anyone with some theories about the RFI (or lack of it) reported by this issue's contributors. Some folks have little or no RFI, and others have to really restrict their operations because of it. Why? The type of rig used? The type of TV, stereo, and telephone? Grounding? (Which may actually *cause* RFI?) Type of transmitting antenna or its placement? Your explanations would be most welcome.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Only one article for the library this go-around:

1. Ford, Steve WB8IMY, editor
Zack Lau, KH6CP/1, guest author
Limited Space Antennas
QST
December 1992
pg. 85 As Steve says in the introduction to this Q&A column, "ARRL Laboratory Engineer Zack Lau, KH6CP/1, has spent years grappling with the challenge of operating in limited-space environments." A most informative article about losses, RF fields, tuners, and so forth. You can have great SWR but crummy radiation. Read this.

Okay folks, let's hear from you! Send your notes, ideas, station description, war stories, and so on to me at:

Packet: N00QS @ W0GVT.#NECO.CO.USA

Internet: awinterb@du.edu
US Snail: Art Winterbauer
10047 E. Mexico Ave.
Denver, CO 80231

Also, listen for snippets of this newsletter on Hap Holly's (KC9RP) Radio Amateur Information Network (RAIN), heard on various nets or by direct dialup (708-299-INFO, no charge except for long-distance costs).

(By the way, this newsletter is no longer distributed via packet. Local packet congestion prohibits uploading to either of the local forwarding PBBSSs, even in tiny hunks. Besides, you should have heard the HF forwarding stations howl!)

73,72. Art.

--

Art Winterbauer N00QS
Internet: awinterb@du.edu OR awinterb@diana.cair.du.edu
Packet: n0oqs @ w0gvt.#neco.co.usa

Date: Wed, 3 Feb 1993 19:42:37 GMT
From: mvb.saic.com!unogate!news.service.uci.edu!ttinews!avatar!
sorgatz@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: MFJ 1278 Rom upgrade time??
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <C1vvBz.5pC@icon.rose.hp.com> cmoore@rose.hp.com (Chris Moore) writes:
>Owen M. Hartnett (omh@cs.brown.edu) wrote:
>: Recent ads for the MFJ 1278 Multimode controller indicate that the
>: company has made an upgrade to the ROMS (seems that way to me, anyway).
>
>: Since I have a coupon for a free upgrade, is now a good time to tender
>: the coupon and upgrade. I guess what I am really asking is: has anyone
>: tried out this new ROM and do you get a significant benefit from it?
>
>: I've found performance of my 1278 somewhat disappointing and hope that
>: when I do upgrade the ROM, I will find a better performing set.
>
>I was wondering about that too...they gave us the certificate for the ROM
>upgrade, but how do you know when there is something to upgrade to?
>
>Also, I wonder if you could elaborate on what you find disappointing about
>the 1278. It's the only TNC I've used, so I have nothing to compare it to
>and I wonder what I'm missing. I've heard others say they didn't like the
>MFJ, but I don't know why.

>
>

OK here's some real data on the roms for the MFJ1278, supposedly the newer roms provide increased lock up for signal identification mode, better s/n for the software filter in multilevel fax mode and better speed tolerance (flutter resist) in cw mode. The truth is the software for the MFJ is SO BAD you may not even care about these improvements because (drum roll please) YOUR OLD SOFTWARE ISN'T COMPATIBLE ANYMORE! That's right, after you get the new rom, open the bugger up and plug it in, you will notice that things like 'screen print' and such no longer function properly. Yea MFJ! ...but wait! ..there's more! You call them up, bitch a little and they'll offer to ship you a new disk, IF you'll send them your old one...turnaround time is right at 2-3 weeks AND the new software isn't copy-protected like the old stuff was, BUT the new software sucks pretty bad, well, at least the IBM version was awful, I dunno about the Commodore 64 package. This stuff so pissed my amigo (Ron, KB6WBO) that he's thinking about buying a PK232mbx!

Good luck, you'll need it...MFJ == Mighty Fine Junk!

-Avatar-> (aka: Erik K. Sorgatz) KB6LUY +-----+
TTI(sorgatz@soldev.tti.com)sorgatz@avatar.tti.com * Think Eco, not EGO! *
3100 Ocean Park Blvd. Santa Monica, CA 90405 +-----+
(OPINIONS EXPRESSED DO NOT REFLECT THE VIEWS OF CITICORP OR ITS MANAGEMENT!)

Date: 3 Feb 1993 19:29:21 GMT
From: usc.edu!howland.reston.ans.net!usenet.ins.cwru.edu!agate!bodega!
marchant@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: Microphone/Earphone Combos
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

I bought one of the genesys models to use with my Icom ic-2GAT handheld. I cannot recommend that anyone get one of these. The first one I got I could hear other people OK, but had to press the unit into my ear and talk VERY loudly to be heard while transmitting. I sent it back to the factory and they were quite courteous and sent me another. This one is slightly better, but in order to get transmissions that people can understand I still have to press the unit into my ear. And even doing that people complain about the quality of the transmission. (I tried several tests using the eartalk microphone, my MFJ speaker-mic, and the built in microphone. I got excellent quality reports on the MFJ and built in, and people immediately started to whine when I used the eartalk.) I've tried both my ears in case it was something weird about my ear canal on one side. Maybe your mileage will vary.

My other complaints are with the stiff cord, and "arm" on the earpiece. I find

that I can't turn my head without knocking the unit out of my ear. Perhaps attaching it to eye glasses would help. The output volume dial is kind of cheesy IMHO. And When I have the unit plugged in to my handheld I can get the 2GAT to break squelch by waving the eartalk cables near the 2GAT. Is that normal? It happens on both of the eartalks I had. I complained about that in my letter when I returned the first unit but the factory never mentioned the issue. The thing that scared me about the first unit was that it was not malfunctioning, but it's "deviation" (factory terminology) was near the lower limits of their specifications. The second unit was hand picked by their engineer for good deviation.

I'm sorry if this sounds like a character assassination. I haven't yet written to the factory about their second unit, so they might have further things that they want me to try to remedy the problem.

--

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Date: Thu, 04 Feb 1993 01:49:10 GMT
From: news.cerf.net!netsys!agate!spool.mu.edu!mixcom.com!
kevin.jessup@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: No Code Proposition
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Sean, KB7RFA, writes...

>However, I have seen a decrease in quality
>as more CB-style communications find there way to HAM frequencies.
>
>So, I have a proposal: change the rules to either of the following--
>
> 1) Require that the No Code License be renewed every few
> years (much less than the current 10 years) by re-testing
>
> 2) Make the license itself a "temporary" license which must
> be upgraded with code within a period of time.

Point 1: You assume that the majority of the problems are due to easy access to ham radio bands by "low-life CB types" who easily acquire a "no code" technician class license.

Point 2: You further assume that the requirement of "code" is the solution to the problem.

I'll let you have point number one but will never agree with point two!

First off, I realize that code is required by international law and that the law will not change in the near future.

Code works nice in many situations and certainly has it's place and is very useful. Some people even enjoy it! I myself often sit around at night listening to the aircraft bands on my scanner. I'm hoping for that one in ten billion chance that a downed pilot (now broken and bloody and operating a transmitter under five feet of mother Earth) in the area will be frantically keying his transmit button at 13 WPM in hopes of some lonely HAM intercepting his transmission! ;-). However, even as much as I might enjoy such a glorious activity, I feel that requiring expertise at such an "old-world" style of communication for ANY amateur radio license seems a poor solution to the "CB style" problem and is, in fact, an incredible waste of time. Were it not for the international law, I'd say "Do away with it!"

In fact, question 2A-1.3 in the novice test question pool asks "Which of the following is not a function of the amateur radio service?" The answer is: "Preserving the history of radio communications." If morse code is not a good example of the history of radio, I don't know what is.

If ham radio is "NOT concerned with preserving the history of radio communications" but is more concerned with advancing the state of the art, I suggest the following...

A much more difficult theory test to gain entry into the "no code" technician area AS WELL AS ALL OTHER HAM LICENSES ABOVE NOVICE. And no "grandfather clause" either. Every ham must take the new theory test! (Oops! Sorry Sean, didn't mean to scare you.)

You DID say it was too easy to get a "no code" license, didn't you??

The amount of electronic theory required for ANY HAM license is truly minimal. There is more to life than $E = I * R$. While the FCC regulation part of the license requires some effort, the theory portion is weak at best.

If you are in doubt here, try sitting in on a college sophomore level circuit analysis class in electrical engineering. I'm not saying HAMS need to have knowledge at that level but something in between that and what is now required seems reasonable.

The theory that comes to mind includes simple RC, RL and RLC circuits,

capacitive and inductive decay calculations, simple transistor biasing circuits, class A, B and C amplifiers. Greater knowledge of antenna and transmission line characteristics could also be required. Throw in some D to A and A to D conversion problems and basic serial data communication techniques. Also, basic transmitter/receiver knowledge beyond the block diagram level. This may prevent the eight-year-olds from upgrading beyond novice, but then none of the amateur radio equipment I own was designed by an eight-year-old either.

It seems to me that would filter out the "CB low life" AND promote true understanding of how it all works. I realize most of this is available in various ARRL manuals. What I'm suggesting is that it be required knowledge for ALL levels above NOVICE.

The original post also mentioned periodic "retesting". Well, if it's good for the "no codes" it's good for the "general", "advanced" and "extra" classes too!

While your requirement of code to filter out the lazy would probably work, would it really help advance our knowledge of electronics and RF communication? Why not do both?

And another thing...it's called a TECHNICIAN license, NOT a "NO CODE" technician license.

Kevin Jessup, N9*** ...

...anxiously awaiting my TECHNICIAN license and PROUD OF IT!

--

Kevin Jessup, kevin.jessup@mixcom.mixcom.com

"Friends don't let friends run DOS."

-- Microware

Date: Wed, 3 Feb 1993 18:52:53 GMT

From: agate!usenet.ins.cwru.edu!howland.reston.ans.net!zaphod.mps.ohio-state.edu!
pacific.mps.ohio-state.edu!linac!att!cbnewsm!jeffj@ames.arpa

Subject: PI network in Swan 700CX

To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

When I dip my grid and peak my plate (vice versa?) on my Swan 700CX to bring my tubes into resonance what exactly is occurring? Does this balance the power output between the tubes? Does this also match the the rig to the antenna? I have read mention of the PI network of tube

rigs being used in place of a tuner in a pitch. I guess when you see maximum power output you are matched to the antenna? Please don't reply via email as my mail path is messed up at the moment. 73!

Jeff

--

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jeffj@seeker.mystic.com |
Infolinc BBS 415-778-5929 |

CW FOREVER!!!!

Date: Wed, 3 Feb 1993 14:50:25 GMT

From: mvb.saic.com!unogate!news.service.uci.edu!usc.edu!howland.reston.ans.net!
bogus.sura.net!udel!gatech!emory!rsiatl!ke4zv!gary@network.UCSD.EDU

Subject: QRP amplifier ?

To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <1099@arrl.org> zlau@arrl.org (Zack Lau) writes:

>

>The TV repairman calls the cord for hooking your TV set without
>the circuitry covered up a "suicide cord." For good reason, too.
>The AC mains are probably the more dangerous than killer voltage
>power supply--because they have the current necessary to kill
>you.

>

>I know of one amateur, a true elmer, that refuses to let amateurs
>who get his help use transformerless power supplies. He supplies
>them with a transformer out of his junkbox. Yes, like Gary, he
>likes tubes. But, I think he wants his proteges to outlive him.

The mains can be dangerous, but there are millions of transformerless radios and TVs out there and very few manage to kill their owners, or the serviceman. It only takes about 20 ma through the chest to be fatal. That's why you practice the one hand rule. I know of one case where 5 volts was fatal. It involved gold neck chains and a 300 amp 5 volt logic supply. Everyone in our line should learn to practice safe electricity. People tend to get sloppy around low voltage solid state equipment. I welded the grounded tip of a solder station into a circuit because I forgot it was powered. Luckily I was wearing glasses or the molten splashes would have ruined my eyes instead of just my trifocals. That doesn't happen very often with tubes. That nice glow is a clear warning.

>Actually, tubes have their place. I have a 6L6 40 meter
>transmitter myself. I wonder if Gary has the transmitter built
>according to his description? I sure hope not.

Yes, I've built transmitters like the one I described. A little bit of respect for Reddy Kilovolt is required, but they can be operated safely. I like to build this type of radio in a wooden box. A metal cabinet is tempting fate if your house wiring is polarized wrong.

>But simple? Let us see, you need to keep your fingers out of
>the high voltage to use it, so you need to build a protective
>box. And, since the coils and wiring of your typical tube set
>radiate, you might as well make it a metal box to prevent
>TVI. Any idea how long it takes to make a box with all the holes
>in the right places, particularly if you don't have a nice set
>of chassis punches?

Well, like the doctor said, "If it hurts, don't do that."
My first real transmitter was built on a wooden board with nails as tie points. This is the original "ugly" construction technique. It used a pair of 211s as a push-pull power oscillator on 40 meters. The tank was link coupled to the feeders. The tubes acted as self-rectifiers from a raw AC feed supplied by a surplus pole transformer. The note was a little rough. :-)

It was tuned by watching the color of the plates. A nice cherry red was the desired state. Output could be judged with a #2 lead pencil by seeing how long an arc could be drawn from the plate caps.

After the first pink QSL card, I installed a bank of mason jar electrolytic rectifiers, outdoors, and a Leyden jar filter. When you went key down, the rectifiers would boil furiously. Great fun.

>With modern solid state circuitry, you can build an entire
>transceiver during the Field day period. Never heard of
>someone doing that with tubes.

I built the above wonder in an afternoon. Receivers are harder, though I did build a three tube superregen in a day. I make no claims as to state of the art, however. It's certainly easier to build high performance equipment with modern ICs. Except when you want to make power.

>Those wonderful high impedances Gary mentions. If
>you are going to weird voltages to get 25 watts, why not use
>a high voltage power FET running off a 50 volt supply and
>skip the output matching network? I just don't see the high
>output impedance of a tube as a benefit. Of course, I think
>the original poster wanted 5 watts, so a RS IRF-510/511 will probably
>do just fine off a 24 volt supply. And, if you really want a

>no-tune amplifier, you can feed the Hexfet with a low pass filter
>that absorbs the input capacitance. Looks like 8 parts, including
>the three coupling and bypass capacitors. Actually, by rewinding
>the 100 uH RF choke, you might be able to build it entirely out
>of stock Radio Shack parts.

Yeah, but why would you want to build a no-tune amp and then have to add another box, an antenna tuner. Transmitters with tunable outputs are a much neater package. I like all the knobs in one box. If we run our 6L6 grounded grid(s), we have an input cap, a cathode choke, a plate tuning cap, the tank coil, and the swinging link. Looks like 5 parts plus the tube. If we want more gain, we use it common cathode and add a screen dropping resistor, grid leak, and input LC circuit for a total of 9 parts plus the tube.

>Tubes don't oscillate? Really? Guess you haven't listened to
>someone trying to convert an SB-220 to 6 meters. Oops, you said
>chip capacitors weren't needed to fix those oscillations. Right,
>they spent hours trying to find just the right parasitic choke
>that wouldn't burn up. Myself, I prefer to skip the black magic
>and put some negative feedback in my transistor circuits.

Circuit strays can be a problem at 10 meters and higher when using ordinary HF components, but at least tube gain doesn't increase exponentially with decreasing frequency. Trying to tame a VHF power transistor at HF is as hard as trying to tame a tube at VHF. When used where they were intended, they work well.

>>It's so nice to make power from the empty vacuum, seems almost like
>>1930s science fiction.

I still say every home constructor should try this. It's so campy it's fun.

Gary

--

Gary Coffman KE4ZV		You make it,		gatech!wa4mei!ke4zv!gary
Destructive Testing Systems		we break it.		uunet!rsiatl!ke4zv!gary
534 Shannon Way		Guaranteed!		emory!kd4nc!ke4zv!gary
Lawrenceville, GA 30244				

Date: Wed, 3 Feb 1993 20:53:29 GMT
From: saimiri.primate.wisc.edu!sdd.hp.com!zaphod.mps.ohio-state.edu!
malgudi.oar.net!news.yzu.edu!yfn.yzu.edu!ag821@ames.arpa
Subject: QRP Mobile
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Well, just have to tell the story. I know there are many HF operators out there who have never tried QRP. It can't work, its boring, you don't get to talk to anyone except when you have your lucky rabbits foot close by.

Well I run a Ten Tec Argonaut 509 and a Hustler antenna in my small Acura (rig plugged into the cigarette lighter). I put out about 4 watts on the part of the band the antenna is tuned for (in this case my 20m is tuned to the SSB portion, and not too great a SWR in the CW portion), figure I am putting out about 2-3 watts on CW.

Its a beautiful day here today, the sun is shining and its warm. I decided to cut lunch short and go out to my car and open the windows and see if anyone was around. The 20 meter band here was in pretty bad shape. After about one minute of tuning the band I heard a VE3 calling CQ. I answered his call and he came right back to me. On about the second go around I told him what my rig was and that I was running 4 watts. He came back immediately with "did you say 40 watts. I told him 4 watts. His reponse was:

"HOLY COW with these bad band conditions that is great". He then told me how good my signal sounded, etc.

The point is this happens every day. I live 7 miles form work and usually make one cw contact on my way into work and one on the way home. I got through a mini-pileup on the way home form a ham fest on Sat and worked a special events on SSB.. with great audio reports.

73s de Cookeville,TN

Jeff, AC4HF

--

Jeff M. Gold, AC4HF

Manager, Academic Computing Support
Tennessee Technological University

Date: Wed, 3 Feb 93 16:28:24 GMT

From: agate!doc.ic.ac.uk!pipex!warwick!nott-cs!unicorn!eeyimkn@ames.arpa

Subject: Real Hams Pass British Exams?

To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <1993Feb1.185653.2128@mercury.cair.du.edu> awinterb@diana.cair.du.edu

(Art Winterbauer) writes:

>Could someone explain the amateur licensing hierarchy in Great Britain?

Sure thing.

Basically, there are now 4 classes of license in Britain:

Class A - Full CEPT class 1, all bands 26dBW

Class B - CEPT class 2, bands above 30MHz 26dBW

Novice A - Limited set of bands, 5W power limit

Novice B - Limited set of bands above 30MHz only, 5W power limit

To get either of the full licenses (Class A/B), the Radio Amateur Examination has to be passed, which is administered by the City & Guilds. It consists of a pair of multiple guess^H^H^H^Hchoice papers, one on electrical theory, RFI, amplifiers, and stuff, and the other on operating practice and license condx, and probably something else. I can't remember the exact details at the moment. The papers are 45mins-1hr each. A license can only be gained by a pass in both papers.

With only a pass in the RAE, a class B license can be obtained, which allows operation in all bands except HF. After passing a 12wpm CW test (which I've failed once :-)), the licensee can upgrade to Class A, which also allows use of the HF bands. The Class B license is codeless. However, many amateurs manage to survive without either CW or HF, and do more interesting things instead..

The Novice licenses are a new introduction to the UK - if you hear any stations with calls beginning with 2, they're UK novices. To get a Novice license, a set course has to be taken which is then assessed by another multiple choice paper. A Novice A license, allowing use of the Novice subset of the HF bands, requires a 5wpm morse test.

>It would also be interesting if someone could post some samples of
>the kinds of questions used in these exams. I've heard from a
>friend that G.B. has one type of code-free examination that is
>very technical, and I've wondered just how technical these exams
>can get.

We all take the same exam for Class A or Class B - the only difference is that Class A licensees have taken (and passed...!) the 12wpm morse test. The questions tend to be about antennae, resonance, transistor amplifiers, obscure bits of the licensing regulations, what your call would be if you moved to Jersey and operated hand portable, and other such stuff. It's quite tricky in places.

>Will this spark another controversy; e.g., real hams pass the
>British exams?

That's 'real radio amateurs'. The term ham is taken here (usually) as slightly abusive, and implies a not particularly good operator. See Tony Hancock's legendary 'The Radio Ham' for details.

BTW, my 2p concerning the No-Code debate: What does it matter if code doesn't need to be learnt to gain a license? There are lots of other modes besides CW, (I'm a packet man myself), so let people do what they really want to rather

than learn CW. If it's in the ITU regs though, morse is still necessary for access to HF. But if you don't particularly want access to HF, why worry? Probably time to pop that particularly ridiculous debate NEway. :-)

73 de Mike, G7GPA - Code free and proud of it :-)

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+--- 'with the lights out, it's less dangerous...' -----+
\----- Mike Knell, Willoughby Hall, University of Nottingham, I092JX -----/
 \  AMPRnet: mikee@g7gpa.ampr.org -- Internet: eeyimkn@unicorn.nott.ac.uk /
  \  'oh well, whatever, nevermind...' -- AX25: G7GPA@GB7BAD.#23.GBR.EU   /
```

Date: 3 Feb 93 18:13:00 GMT
From: saimiri.primate.wisc.edu!zaphod.mps.ohio-state.edu!howland.reston.ans.net!
usc.edu!hela.iti.org!cs.widener.edu!dsinc!ub!acsu.buffalo.edu!
ubvmsb.cc.buffalo.edu!v111qheg@ames.arpa
Subject: Why wont any Deleware station QSL? [originator's reply]
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

OK! OK! I hope the point came across in my last posting. As many people have pointed out in follow up postings and E-mail, it is a true sad statement that a good number of domestic stations will simply not QSL, or QSL *well*.

It used not to be necessary to include a sase with your card to U.S. addresses, but due to the high price of postage this is becomming more the rule than the exception. It must really be daunting for a Novice who lacks the experience in the matter and does not get return cards and who has some naivety towards the art of QSLing.

My own personal policy is to QSL every card received, regardless as to wether the other guy includes a sase or sends it like a post card. I also send out a card for each contest QSO I make, unless the station already has my card, or they are a big multi-multi effort from a country I have confirmed because of the volume that they will receive.

While on this matter, I want to make one further point. I have received a number of cards from amateurs with good intentions, but their cards are no good for any awards that require checking of cards due to omissions such as frequency, mode, state, and even their own callsign!

If you get a card from a station who needs yours, please give him the the courtesy of a reply. You dont even need a genuine card! Simply write out the report on a piece of paper with your call and address and you are good to go! It takes two to make a QSO. Dont neglect the other guy.

Many 73 es DX,

Peter Vasilion, KB2NMV
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End of Info-Hams Digest V93 #165
